

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 6343: An act concerning the restoration of the Housatonic Railroad line.

I am writing to you, as a resident of New York City and the Berkshires, in support of updating and restoring passenger rail service through Northwest Connecticut, as described in Rep. Roberta Willis's proposed legislation HB 6343. This legislation is critical to the future of NWCT. Here are some of the benefits offered to the citizens of Connecticut:

1. Support existing businesses and increase tourism.
2. Attract young families and entrepreneurs.
3. Improve rail safety and decrease noise and vibration
4. Stimulate new local transport options and enterprises

We live and work part time in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, and it would increase our business opportunities significantly to have rail service between our homes and northwestern CT.

Yours sincerely,  
Julie Kern